GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3969
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2005
OBSERVATION OF LACUNAE BY WORLD BANK IN ICDS
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Integrated Child Development Services Programme has been evaluated by many agencies including World Bank and have observed lacunae in the programme;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the corrective steps taken/to be taken by the Government to remove the lacunae and streamline the scheme ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH)

(a)&(b) : The impact of the Integrated Child Development Services(ICDS) Scheme has been significant in the field of health, nutrition and educational status of the beneficiaries as brought out in the evaluations conducted by National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development in 1992; Central Technical Committee on Integrated Mother and Child Development in 1996 and National Council of Applied Economic Research in 2000-2001.

No evaluation of ICDS Scheme as such has been conducted by the World Bank. However, a draft Report prepared by the World Bank titled `India`s Malnourished Children-A call for Reform and Action` was received on which comments have been sent to the World Bank. Final Report has not been received so far.

(c) The steps and initiatives taken by the Government, in the recent past, to increase the effectiveness and impact of the Scheme include;

Expansion of the Scheme from existing 5652 Projects and 7.54 lakh Anganwadi Centres to 6108 Projects and 9.42 lakhs Anganwadi Centres.Doubling of financial norms for supplementary nutrition. V Sharing of 50% cost of supplementary nutrition with the States.

Increase in the rent of Anganwadi Centres. V Constant emphasis on States to :

Operationalise alJ sanctioned projects and Anganwadi Centres (AWCs);

Focus on reaching children under 3 years;

Fill-up all vacant posts of ICDS functionaries;

Ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms ;

Make available medicine ar j pre-school education kits in all AWCs;

Ensure effective convergence of health nutrition, education and safe drinking water services under various programmes.

The implementation of the scheme is also reviewed with the State Governments/UT Administrations from time to time.